

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 stand rejected as being obvious over Levine et al '217 in view of Nagy et al and Goldblatt et al. The Examiner notes that the claims which have been examined do not recite the detection of "individual" cells, and thus the examined claims are not so limited.

THE 35 USC §112, SECOND PARA. REJECTION

Claim 14 has been amended to delete the objected-to phrase, thus rendering the rejection moot.

THE 35 USC §112, FIRST PARA. REJECTION

Claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 13 have been amended to delete the objected-to phrase, thus rendering the rejection moot.

THE 35 USC §103 (a) REJECTION

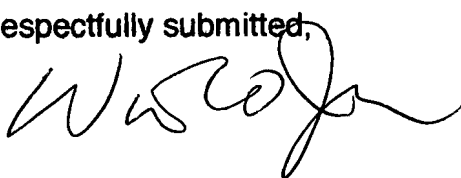
Claims 1-7 and 9-14 have been amended to specify that individual cells are detected. Certain of these claims have also been amended to recite the detection of "hematologic" progenitor cells, which descriptor is fully supported by the specification as filed.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the claims have addressed all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims. The Applicants believe that the specification does not use trademarks in any way which would adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

In view of the above-noted amendments to the claims, and the arguments advanced in support thereof, it is respectfully submitted that this application is presently in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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